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LETTER DATED 27 NOVEMBER 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you of an incident that took place on 16 November 1996. At 1200 hours on that day Mu'ayyad Jum`ah Sabti, a member of the Iraqi customs police, was gathering firewood near the building at the former Jarishan post, one kilometre from the boundary line with Kuwait, when he was intercepted by Kuwaiti patrols. They opened fire in his direction and forced him to descend into the slit trench running parallel to the embankment. They then forced him to go with them into Kuwaiti territory.

I request your intervention with Kuwait with a view to securing the release and safe return of this Iraqi citizen and to urging Kuwait to put a halt to such provocative acts of aggression against the Republic of Iraq and its personnel. These acts have the goal of preventing the emergence of a climate of calm and stability in the area and are in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the provisions of public international law. I also affirm the legally established right of the Republic of Iraq to seek compensation for the damage caused to it and to its nationals by this act of aggression, in accordance with the principle of international responsibility.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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